

Beekeeping Survey

Return to:
Virginia Dept. of Agr. & Cons. Serv.
P.O. Box 1163
Richmond, VA 23218
FAX: 804-371-7793

1. In which County(s) or City(s) is/are your apiary(s) located?
2. How long have you been keeping bees?
3. How many hives do you currently manage?
4. What is the annual production of honey from these hives (i.e. pounds per hive)?
5. Are you able to adequately sell or otherwise dispense with honey obtained from your hives?
☐ Yes
☐ No

If you answered "NO" to question 5, what changes or assistance could improve your ability to sell, give away, or dispense with any excess honey?

6. Over the past 5 years has your interest in beekeeping:
☐ Increased
☐ Stayed about the same
☐ Decreased
7. What is your immediate goal regarding the number of bee hives you currently manage?
☐ Increase
☐ Stay about the same
☐ Decrease
8. Over the past 5 years has the cost of maintaining your hives:
☐ Increased
☐ Stayed about the same
☐ Decreased
☐ Unknown
9. Would you encourage others to take up beekeeping as a commercial endeavor or hobby?
☐ Yes
☐ Yes, hobby only
☐ No

If you answered “NO” to question 9, please explain the reason for your answer.

10. Are adequate resources (i.e. literature, workshops, beekeepers, inspectors, extension agents) available in your area to provide assistance in dealing with problems in your hives?

____ Yes

____ No

If you answered “NO” to question 10, what additional resources would be helpful?

11. Do you have an interest in participating in a beekeeper training program (i.e. Master Beekeeper)?

____ Yes

____ No

12. Are you satisfied with the honey production and health of your hives (i.e. frames of bees, amount of honey produced)?

____ Yes

____ No

If you answered “NO” to question 12, please explain the reason for your answer.

13. How would you characterize your annual losses of honey bees or hives to diseases, pests, or environmental conditions?

____ Acceptable, 0 to 15 percent loss

____ Moderate, 15 to 25 percent loss

____ High, 25 to 50 percent loss

____ Severe, 50 to 100 percent loss

14. Do you consider either diseases or pests of honey bees as persistent problems in your hives?

____ Yes

____ No

If you answered “YES” to question 14, which disease or pest is of most concern?

15. Do you believe the current treatment options (i.e. medications, pesticides, genetic resistance, and equipment) for controlling diseases and pests of honey bees are sufficient?

____ Yes

____ No

If you answered “NO” to question 15, what additional options would be helpful?

16. Rank the top 5 concerns from the list below for you as a beekeeper or to your honey bees with 1 as the greater concern and 5 the lesser concern.

- ☐ Available apiary sites
 - ☐ Bear or other large vertebrate animal
 - ☐ Cost of equipment, queens, packages, other beekeeping supplies
 - ☐ Diseases such as American Foulbrood, Nosema, and Chalkbrood
 - ☐ Federal, state, or local regulations and ordinances
 - ☐ Development and urbanization
 - ☐ Interstate movement of honeybees for pollination purposes
 - ☐ Invertebrate pests such as Small hive beetle and Wax moth
 - ☐ Liability Insurance
 - ☐ Parasitic mites such as Varroa and Tracheal mites
 - ☐ Pesticides applied to crops, lawns, or other large areas
 - ☐ Pesticides applied to control mites in a beehive
 - ☐ Queen failure
 - ☐ Vandalism
 - ☐ Other(s), please specify: _____
-

17. Which of the following do you typically use to control pests in your hives (i.e. mites, small hive beetles, ants, wax moth)?

(Check all appropriate treatments)

- ☐ Miticides or other Pesticides (i.e. Apistan, CheckMite+, Formic acid)
- ☐ Natural Oils (i.e. Apiguard, Api-Life VAR, Food Grade Mineral Oil)
- ☐ Powders (i.e. Confectionary sugar, Garlic)
- ☐ Genetic resistant queens (i.e. Hygienic, SMR, Russian)
- ☐ Specialized Equipment (i.e. Screen bottom board, West Beetle trap)
- ☐ Management techniques (i.e. Requeen, Drone trap, Splits)
- ☐ Other(s), please specify: _____

18. How often do you requeen your hives?

- ☐ Frequently, every year
- ☐ Regularly, every 2 to 3 years
- ☐ Infrequently, not part of regular hive management
- ☐ Never

If you requeen your hives, where do you obtain your queens?

- ☐ Raise own
- ☐ Local beekeeper
- ☐ In-state, but not locally
- ☐ Out of state

19. Are your hives rented or used in pollination of fruits, nuts, vegetables or other crops?

- ☐ Yes, rented for a monetary fee
- ☐ Yes, but not paid for services
- ☐ No

If your answer to question 19 is “NO”, skip to question 22 below.

20. Are you able to fulfill pollination requests (i.e. orders, number of hives) from farmers contacting you?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ No

21. Are you satisfied with pollination fees currently received for your hives?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Do not receive monetary payment

22. How important is honey bee pollination to the success of agriculture and the environment?

- ☐ Highly important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Not important at all

23. Do you have insurance for product liability or injury from bee stings to neighbors, visitors, or employees?

- ☐ Personal injury
- ☐ Product liability
- ☐ No

In the remaining space and any additional pages, please, comment on issues or concerns not covered in this survey, or programs and services that might improve beekeeping and honey bee productivity.